

Message Text

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SUBJ: SPACE COOPERATION

REF: TOKYO 3526

SUMMARY: FULL-TEXT OF FRENCH-JAPANESE SPACE MEMORANDUM (BEING POUCHED) REVEALS THAT AREA OF AGREEMENT IN BOOSTER ROCKET DEVELOPMENT QUITE LIMITED. GOJ DEFERRED RESPONSE TO FRENCH OFFER OF COOPERATION AT GOVERNMENTAL LEVEL ON ARIANE THIRD-STAGE, PROPOSING INSTEAD TECHNICAL LEVEL MEETINGS ON SUBJECT. LICENSING OF ARIANE THIRD-STAGE TECHNOLOGY TO JAPANESE PRIVATE COMPANIES MAY GO FORWARD. END SUMMARY.

1. MAKING IT CLEAR THAT INITIATIVE WAS ON FRENCH SIDE, JOINT DOCUMENT (AIDE MEMOIRE) STATES LEVY PROPOSED THAT CNES TAKE STEPS FOR "TRANSFER OF KNOW-HOW AND LICENSES" OF ARIANE THIRD-STAGE, WHICH QTE COULD BE FURTHER EXTENDED TO THE JOINT DEVELOPMENT OF IMPROVED VERSIONS OF THIRD STAGE OR RELEVANT NEW TECHNOLOGIES. UNQTE. LEVEY INDICATED COOPERATION COULD TAKE PLACE BOTH (1) THROUGH BOTH GOVERNMENTAL AND PRIVATE CHANNELS AND (2) THROUGH PRIVATE CHANNELS ONLY, WITH FORMER BEING FRENCH PREFERENCE.

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WHILE EXPRESSING "DEEP INTEREST," JAPANESE SIDE DEFERRED RESPONSE

TO PROPOSAL FOR GOVERNMENTAL COOPERATION UNTIL CURRENT FEASIBILITY STUDY OF "N" ROCKET IMPROVEMENT COMPLETED. JAPAN PROPOSED AND FRENCH AGREED THAT, PRIOR TO JAPANESE RESPONSE TO LEVY PROPOSALS, JOINT TECHNICAL MEETINGS WOULD BE HELD TO STUDY "ADVANTAGE OF INTRODUCTION OF TECHNOLOGIES OF ARIANE THIRD STAGE" INTO JAPANESE SPACE PROGRAM. WHILE JAPANESE SIDE EXPRESSED ITS EXPECTATION OF FRUITFUL RESULTS OF PRIVATE COOPERATION, SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS UNCLEAR IN ABSENCE OF GOJ DECISION TO USE FRENCH TECHNOLOGY IN GOVEPITAL SPACE PROGRAM.

2. PRELIMINARY INFORMATION AVAILABLE TO SCICOUNS IS THAT FRENCH PRESSED HARD FOR AGREEMENT ON GOVERNMENTAL LEVEL COOPERATION, WITH JAPANESE REFUSING TO BE PINNED DOWN AND OFFERING FURTHER STUDY FORMULA INSTEAD. THIS VERSION SEEMS TO BE FULLY SUPPORTED BY UNUSUALLY EXPLICIT WORDING OF DOCUMENT.

3. OTHER AREAS OF POSSIBLE AGREEMENT SUGGESTED BY LEVY WERE:

- 1) JAPANESE USE OF CNES FACILITIES SUCH AS GUIANA TRACKING AND TELEMETRY STATIONS;
- 2) JOINT DEVELOPMENT OF APPLICATION SATELLITES, AND JOINT USE OF SPACE-LAB. HOWEVER, LEVY INDICATED COOPERATION IN THESE AREAS SHOULD FOLLOW COOPERATION HE OFFERED IN BOOSTER ROCKET FIELD, THUS CLEARLY INDICATING FRENCH EAGERNESS TO ACHIEVE SOME RETURNS FROM JAPAN ON COSTLY ROCKET INVESTMENT.

4. OUTCOME OF JAPANESE-FRENCH SPACE TALKS IS THUS MIXED. ON BALANCE, RESULTS CAN BE DESCRIBED AS CLEARLY MORE CONSISTENT WITH OFFICIAL JAPANESE DENIALS OF IMPENDING COOPERATION IN BOOSTER ROCKET FIELD THAN WITH EARLIER PRESS REPORTS DEPICTING SUCH COOPERATION AS VIRTUALLY AGREED UPON. HOWEVER, CLEAR JAPANESE INTEREST IN USE OF FRENCH LIQUID HYDROGEN TECHNOLOGY IS EVIDENT, AND JAPANESE PROPOSAL TO DEFER RESPONSE TO FRENCH OFFER PENDING FURTHER STUDY AND DEFINITION OF FUTURE JAPANESE BOOSTER PROGRAM IS UNDOUBTEDLY MORE THAN POLITE MEANS OF REFUSAL. SIGNIFICANCE OF DISCUSSIONS WILL BE HEPORTED ON FURTHER, FOLLOWING SCICOUNS BRIEFING BY STA OFFICIALS ON MARCH 20.
SHOESMITH

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